

***Private Companies Are Now Banned from Earmarks***

Washington, DC – Today, the House Appropriations Committee announced that it will adopt Congressman Harry Teague's earmark reform policy that bans earmarks that are directed to for-profit entities. According to the House Appropriations Committee, if this rule had been in effect last year, it would have resulted in 1,000 fewer earmarks.

"Since day one in Congress, I have made it my official policy to not seek congressional earmarks for private companies," said Congressman Harry Teague. "I took this approach to earmark reform because I believe Congress needs to do more to support the public needs of the communities we represent and that is why I only make funding requests on behalf of local government and other not for profit entities. The announcement today that the House Appropriations Committee is going to enforce this policy for all members is an overdue step in the right direction."

To assure compliance, the Appropriations Committee will also require agency Inspectors General to audit a percentage of all earmarks directed to non-profit entities. This new oversight measure is to ensure that earmarks go to their intended purposes and to prevent for-profit companies from masquerading as non-profits.

Additionally, the Appropriations Committee will establish an online “one-stop” link to all House Members’ appropriations earmark requests to enable the public to easily view them. In the interests of full disclosure and promoting more open and transparent government, Congressman Harry Teague has been posting his earmark requests online since joining the Congress in 2009.

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